

First Presbyterian Church
1169 Clark Street, SW
Covington, GA 30014



Time Sensitive Church News
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See our website at: www.fpccov.org

The deadline for the August "First Press" is July 15, 2019. Please submit your articles and information to the church office by email: penihaug@gmail.com or by dropping off your copy to the church office, neatly printed or typed or on a flash drive. Thanks!



- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Larkin Arnold | 18 Theodosia Wade |
| 5 Lane Dobs | Lori Ardis |
| 7 Donna Weesner | 19 Gavin Bates |
| Travis Moss | 21 Larry Kennon |
| 8 Shaun Evans | 22 Jon Paschal |
| Cheryl Meichsner | 23 Penny Blakeney |
| 9 Perri Walden | Steven Schubert |
| 11 Scott Daniell | 26 Rita Tingler |
| Jake McCarthy | Steve Kapp |
| 13 Judy Hooten | Dency Barnes |
| 14 Raleigh Loftin | 27 Kelly Skinner |
| 15 Abbey Grace Venham | 28 Jon Williams |
| Meghann Timmins | Louly Kapp |
| 16 Koen Ardis | |

If your birthday has not appeared on our monthly list, please notify us of the **full date** and we will add it to our data base so that when your next birthday rolls around, we will be able to help you celebrate!

FIRST PRESS



Greetings FPC Family!

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord, Jesus Christ! I hope and pray this July 2019 newsletter finds you happy and well. The First Presbyterian Church family of faith is very blessed by each and every one of you ... please don't ever doubt or forget that!

Here's a newsflash from the Apostle Paul ... "All have sinned and fall short of God's glory ..." (Romans 3:23 CEB). All. As in ... everyone. All of us. "There is no distinction," as Paul says immediately prior in verse 22.

It's simple. We're all in this together. No one person is more special than another. All have fallen short.

Yet, it's remarkably, beautifully, and wonderfully simple in another way ... we are all together in something else. We are all equally special as God's children, despite our flaws and shortcomings and regrets and mistakes. All have sinned and yet *all* are special.

Because God does not intend for any single one of us or any single group of us to be broken. God wants to mend things—between us and God, between each other, between God and creation. God mends and heals and cares and loves ... all of us.

Think of it this way ... A married couple owned a single-cab pickup truck, and when they drove into town the wife would sit in the middle of the bench seat next to her husband who was driving. Early on in their marriage, she leaned on him and they talked pleasantries as they rode along "luvie duvie" together. Over time she began to move away from the middle, until she ultimately began riding on her own side of the truck. And, over more time, as she moved further away, they talked less and less, until they rode along mostly in silence. It began to bother her more and more so one day she asked her husband why they didn't talk anymore and why they weren't so "luvie duvie" anymore. And, the husband responded, "You moved away from me. I'm still sitting here in the same place driving the truck."

When we feel distant from God, we must realize that God hasn't moved! We have moved and become more separated from God. But, God reaches out for us, and God mends and heals and cares and loves ... *all of us*.

"All have sinned and fall short of God's glory, but all are treated as righteous freely by his grace because of a ransom that was paid by Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:23-24 CEB).

Thanks be to God that God mends and heals and cares and loves ... all of us!

Until the next time I remain ... just another silly preacher wondering if my new dog, Paris, has any idea how lucky I feel to be her daddy. We feel so blessed to have her in our family!

Grace & Peace,
Steven



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

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The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Sunday, July 14, at the 11:00 worship service.

Prepare your heart.

SESSION & ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

June Session Highlights

- Sam Hay from the Pastor Nominating Committee reviewed in detail the Ministry Information Form (MIF) with Session members. The MIF was approved and will be submitted to the Clerk of Presbytery for online access of candidates for the Senior Pastor position at FPC.
- Michael Thompson from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee reviewed a job description to be used in search of an Associate Pastor of Family Ministries. This would be a contract position and subject to re-evaluation after a Senior pastor is hired.

Continued next column

Monthly Financial Report

Pledge arrears for 2019 (\$8,238)

2019 May Numbers rounded	Monthly Budget	Monthly Income/ Expenses	YTD Income/ Expenses
Pledged Income	31,768	27,807	150,605
Non-Pledge Income	3,583	2,973	16,224
Other Income	416	320	730
Total income	36,601	31,100	170,058
Expenses	38,594	33,528	182,219
Net Totals	(-1,992)	(-2,528)	(-12,161)

- Christian Education is developing a larger group of volunteers for its committee. Please contact Miriam Wheeler if you would like to be a member of this team.
- Facilities and Equipment reported that repair items for ELC classrooms were mostly completed and building is ready for new staff and students when they return in the fall.
- Finance reported that while expenses are down, we are behind on our budget income year-to-date. They anticipate that with the reduction of staff for the next several months that the numbers should turn around. Finance reported that Darcel Tabb will be leading the Stewardship campaign this year.
- The Witness team reported on the status of the Family Promise program and the need for additional volunteers from FPC members. Also needed are additional volunteers for the Blood drive on July 3rd. Please contact Doug Bolton if you can assist in these outreach ministries.
- The Worship team reported that the next Communion service will be on Sunday, July 14 and will be served while seated. Also, additional duties were discussed for Ushers: monthly usher chair should arrive early to open the church each Sunday and will assign one usher to stand at lower doors on Brown Street side of church to assist members into the building.
- Doug Bolton & John McCarthy were elected as commissioners for August 17th Presbytery meeting.
- There will not be a regular session meeting in July. The next regular meeting will be August 11.

Submitted by
John McCarty
Clerk of Session

Serving Us in July

July Usher Chair:
Cy Wolverton

Sound Engineer:
Ken Walker

If unable to serve,
please get a sub for
your duties

Hospital Visitors:
7/7 Jean Wolverton
7/14 Betty Bailey
7/21 Bob & Darcell Tabb
7/28 Danny & Beth Vining

MEMBERS OF SESSION

Class of 2019
Carter Gibson
Jay Lanners
John McCarthy
Cheryl Meichsner
Miriam Wheeler
Allie Hay

Class of 2020
Doug Bolton
Stan Hall
Cindy Moon
Bob Tabb
Michael Thompson

Class of 2021
Warren Liem
Pam Stillerman
Donna Weesner
Cy Wolverton



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 2:00—7:00 Blood Drive at FPC	4 Office Closed 	5	6
7 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	8 10:30 Red Cross Training for Volunteers	9 4:00 Exercise	10	11 10:30 Ambassador Choir	12	13 8:00 Men's Breakfast & Study
14 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service with the Lord's Supper 	15 10:30 Ambassador Choir-Salem Campground August Newsletter Deadline!	16 4:00 Exercise	17	18	19	20
21 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	22 7:00 NAMI	23 4:00 Exercise	24	25 10:30 Ambassador Choir	26	27
28 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Service	29	30 4:00 Exercise	31	August 1 10:30 Ambassador Choir	August 2	August 3

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**Blood Drive
Donors Needed**

The church will be sponsoring a Blood Drive on Wednesday, July 3rd. To sign up to donate blood go to: redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code: "firstprescov" or call 1-800-redcross (drop-ins welcome, too!). Volunteers who wish to assist are asked to contact Doug Bolton at 678-858-2080.

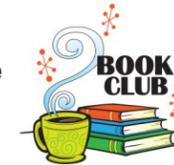
Men's Bible Study and Breakfast

The men will meet on **Saturday, July 13 at 8:00 am** in the fellowship hall. Bring your breakfast and a friend. Our study continues with the book *The Day the Revolution Began*. We will be talking about the cross in the Greek and Jewish cultural contexts of the first century.



**A Novel Bunch Book Club
Please Note: Book has changed**

The Novel Bunch will not meet in July. They will resume on August 27th at 1 pm to discuss "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens. We decided Stephen King's "11.22.63" was too long. We will meet at the home of Chris and Barbara Martin, 650 Mason Drive. All are welcome.



Dear Friends,
Thank you so much for your prayers and get well cards which pulled me through my 6 months of back problems and ultimate surgery. I felt so supported by the offers of food, rides and errands. I may live alone but I was not alone thanks to God's Love extended to me by the church.
Thank you, Ruth McDaniel



**Presbyterian Women
Gathered to Celebrate**

The June meeting for the PW was a fun evening. Forty six members enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Cindy Webb Mask with many PW helpers. Cindy owns the Town Square Olive Oil Store and brought her oils and spices for us to taste. Many had not known of her procedure using the Sous Vide precision cooker. Her salmon and chicken dishes were outstanding. Also helping in the kitchen was Jennifer Morganthall who is soon to open a catering service, "J-Mo to Go." She uses many of Cindy's products in her cooking. Thank you to these two gals who worked so hard. Also, sincere thank you to all the PW women who gave much time and hard work for this evening.



Presbyterian Women of FPC enjoying their Sous Vide supper of chicken or salmon with wonderful sides of salad, green beans and rice pilaf prepared in healthy ways!

Included in the many thank you presentations, was a huge "love thank you" to DIANE LOEBLE for all she has given to all levels of the Presbyterian Women. She and Bill will be greatly missed when they move to South Carolina. Best wishes for all good things go to you, Diane and Bill.

The new officers, Jean Wolverton, Moderator; Dana Hall, Vice Moderator Stephanie Fortson, Secretary and Sherri Bolton, Treasurer, will meet in early August to "think outside the box" to plan for new year for the PW.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



First Presbyterian Church Covington would like to welcome our new members, **Peggy Stallings** and **Sonny McDonald**. Peggy joins us from South Gwinnett Baptist Church, while Sonny rejoins our congregation from Zion Baptist Church. They were both born and raised in Newton County and graduated from Newton High School. After graduation, Peggy moved to Atlanta, and Sonny remained in the Covington/Oxford area. Both Peggy and Sonny are retired. Peggy worked as a scheduler for a doctor's office, and Sonny worked in the grocery business. They enjoy spending time with family. Peggy has three children and five grandchildren. Sonny has two children, four grandsons, and one great-granddaughter. Peggy enjoys reading, cooking/baking, and antiques. Sonny likes old cars and car shows. They enjoy vacationing in the mountains of North Georgia. Peggy recently moved back to Oxford. Peggy and Sonny look forward to being active members of First Presbyterian Church Covington.

FAREWELL TO BILL AND DIANE LOEBLE

It is with sadness that we wish the Bill and Diane Loeble our best wishes as they will move in early August to South Carolina. Bill has been a clerk of the session, an elder, a Sunday school teacher, a boy scout executive, and great contributor to our church. Of course, Diane has been with him in all his work plus her own many years of service to the Presbyterian Women. There will be a void in our church and we will save the tenth pew on the right for them when they come back to visit.

WITNESS NEWS



Food Pantry

Donations of any non-perishable food items are welcome. Bernice Bailey is the Director, (770-786-3048)

Suggested for July: soap, toothpaste, shampoo



Baby Love

Diapers and wipes are given to those in need. Donations can be left in the narthex.

CHOIR NEWS

Sanctuary Choir

The choir will be on summer break beginning June 23rd. They will resume rehearsals Wednesday, August 7th, at 6:45 pm.



Ambassador Choir

THURSDAY, July 4th - NO REHEARSAL

THURSDAY, July 11 - Regular Rehearsal in FPC Choir Room at 10:30 AM

MONDAY, July 15 - Sing in Combined Choir with SINGING SAINTS from First United Methodist Church at SALEM CAMP MEETING. Meet under the Tabernacle at 10:30 AM sharp for rehearsal. Choirs begin singing at 10:45 AM. Worship Service at 11:00 AM. Complimentary Lunch at Salem Hotel at 12:30 PM. Reservations required so please let Alice know your plans.

THURSDAY, July 18 - No Rehearsal

THURSDAY, July 25 - Regular Rehearsal in FPC Choir Room at 10:30 AM